

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-10. (canceled)

11. (new) A drive unit for a boat, comprising:

a rigid housing;

a transmission with first and second coaxial bevel gears mounted opposite one another on an engine shaft inside said housing, said first and second bevel gears engaging a third bevel gear fitted to a further shaft that extends from said housing orthogonal to said engine shaft;

first and second clutches that each engages a respective one of said first and second bevel gears with said engine shaft, said first and second clutches each being inside a respective one of said first and second bevel gears; and

plural bearings that mount said engine shaft and said first and second bevel gears on said housing so as to discharge reaction forces to said housing.

12. (new) The drive unit of claim 11, wherein said first and second bevel gears are each fitted on one side to a respective one of said bearings mounted on said housing and on an opposite side to at least a further one of said bearings that is mounted on a central support integral with said housing.

13. (new) The drive unit of claim 11, wherein said first and second clutches are multi-disk clutches with forced and controlled lubrication and cooling.

14. (new) The drive unit of claim 11, further comprising plural pipes in said engine shaft that convey a pressurised fluid to said first and second clutches.

15. (new) The drive unit of claim 14, wherein said plural pipes are coaxial with said engine shaft.

16. (new) The drive unit of claim 11, further comprising,

a first annular chamber bounded by said housing, said engine shaft, and said first and second bevel,

a second annular chamber inside each of said first and second bevel gears and that communicates with said first annular chamber by means of a series of channels in a surface of said engine shaft, and

wherein said first annular chamber communicates with a pipe that carries a cooling fluid and said second annular chamber communicates with said first and second clutches.

17. (new) The drive unit of claim 11, wherein said first and second clutches are each mounted on said engine shaft.